



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Deadline Nears for SHBP Retirees to Reduce Premiums With Medicare D Enrollment**

ATLANTA – State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) members who are eligible for Medicare D enrollment have until March 1 to declare their intent to enroll in Medicare D or submit documentation of enrollment for a reduced monthly premium. Notices were mailed to eligible members last week requesting enrollment information and advising of potential increased premiums on their March 2006 premiums for April 2006 coverage.

Members who enroll in a Medicare D plan can reduce their monthly premium by \$32.20 per person or \$64.40 per family. Members who do not enroll in Medicare D will pay additional premiums of \$64.40 per person or \$128.80 per family.

“Approximately 52% of our eligible members have enrolled in a Medicare D plan,” said Dr. Rhonda Medows, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health. “We are pleased with the recent enrollment trend and are notifying members one more time before premiums are increased.”

A recent Kaiser Family Foundation report indicated that 45% of seniors nationwide have enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug benefit or plan to enroll. The report also indicated that 29% do not plan to enroll and 23% are unsure.

SHBP members should complete and return the mailed notices by March 1. Members can also mail or fax verification documents such as their Part D prescription card, enrollment confirmation letter or enrollment application to:

State Health Benefit Plan  
Post Office Box 38342  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Fax # 866-828-4796

Members may compare drug plans through the plan finder at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Members with questions regarding SHBP coverage may call 404-463-7007.

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